



# Shasta County Farm Bureau

3605 Bechelli Lane ■ Redding, CA 96002 ■ (530) 223-2358 ■ E-mail: info@shastafarmbureau.com

August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

As a member of Shasta County Farm Bureau with over 1600 members, I feel I must comment on your recent release of the final EIS/EIR regarding the Cal-Fed program. I am asking you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. In addition, I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the scheme of things.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. Landowners have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts, not take away land that belongs to somebody else.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon. Capturing high flows from wet winters and storing them in above ground reservoirs is an appropriate solution to this widespread problem.

Sincerely,

Cindy McCarthy  
Shasta County Farm Bureau Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Rep. Herger

Governor Gray Davis

State Senator Maurice Johannessen

Assembly Member Dick Dickerson

County Supervisor Kehoe

County Supervisor Fust

County Supervisor Hawes

County Supervisor Wilson

County Supervisor Clarke